



Historic Preservation Commission Executive Minutes

May 22, 2017

MONDAY

6:00 p.m.

2600 FRESNO STREET
CONFERENCE ROOM A
2nd Floor, City Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL- 6:00 p.m.

*The meeting was called to order by **Chair Patrick Boyd** at 6:02 PM.*

Commissioners Present: Don Simmons, Robin Goldbeck, Paul Halajian, Kristina Roper, Patrick Boyd, Jason Hatwig, Ron McNary.

Staff Present: Dan Zack, Seth Mehrten (CAO), and Amber Piona.

II. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

A. Approve Minutes for February 27th, 2017.

The minutes of February 27th were approved 6-0 with a motion by Roper and a second by Halajian.

III. APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved 6-0 with a motion by Robin Goldbeck and a second by McNary.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR
None

V. CONTINUED MATTERS
None

VI. COMMISSION ITEMS

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a) High Speed Rail (HSR) Update on Belmont Overcrossing Design.

Robert Ramirez from High Speed Rail presented. Revisit from last August. Ramirez explained how HSR responded to previous direction. Provided rendering of proposed Belmont overcrossing.

Boyd: How wide are the sidewalks on overpass?

Ramirez: I don't know.

Halajian: What is the opaque material on overpass barrier?

Ramirez: I don't know. The non-opaque is metal mesh. Design is not finalized.

Zach: Public Works is working with HSR on aesthetics for all overpasses.

Goldbeck: What materials did Public Works suggest?

Zach: We provided a few, this is part of ongoing discussion.

Halajian: Are there anti-graffiti measures on the overpass?

Ramirez: The MSE walls are textured to resist graffiti. Can ask about other features on the overpass.

Hatwig: The beginning and end of a bridge are defining characteristics. The proposed design looks like it seamlessly erodes on both sides.

Boyd: Decorative elements can be added on both ends to mark the bridge as a bridge. It doesn't have to be attached to the bridge, can be separate, but look like part of the bridge. A beginning and end decorative feature.

Boyd: To be clear, on other side, the residential street, that treatment will be massive retaining walls (no landscaping on that side), undesirable, and graffiti target.

Ramirez: Yes, that will be an MSE wall.

Halajian: What is covering open trench of HSR? What are the materials?

Ramirez: I don't know, it's below grade, but there will be anti-pedestrian measure. Below grade section ends half-way up Roeding Park. Soundwall will obscure train from park.

Zach: Where does HSR go back up?

Ramirez: On other side of 180 it will rise back up.

Zach: The station will be at ground level?

Ramirez: Yes. The train will elevate north of Herndon.

Concludes presentation

Chair Boyd opens the question period for commissioners.

McNary: What is the design of retaining wall on east side of tracks? Is there any kind of design next to Weber?

Ramirez: The wall surface won't be flat, will be textured. The wall will consist of an outer layer of concrete blocks, with the fill being soil.

Boyd: How big will the blocks be? Will it be a keystone wall, split face block? Some overpasses have big octagon tiles, will it be that?

Ramirez: I will get you dimensions. It won't be a mold, it will be a block wall. Boyd: material will match sound wall?

Ramirez: Yes.

Halajian: When BART came through, it sliced through neighborhoods. This activity kills neighborhoods if not well-thought out.

Simmons: This makes bad areas worse, need to have consideration of design for the neighborhood.

McNary: Be careful of what we do. I am afraid of what barriers do to neighborhoods. Would like a better design more Deco influence.

Halajian: more concerned about how pedestrians/cyclists will interface with wall. Boyd:

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agrees. Would like architectural design to make that wall the neighborhood's. Uses example from Caltrans in SoCal. Against split-faced "anything" because it won't tie into architecture/aesthetics in neighborhood. Cannot be buffered with landscaping.

Ramirez: Is the commission's concern only about the Weber-facing side?

Boyd: No. Although the Weber facing side is the most prominent, we are concerned about all sides, to keep the design unified. Want a bridge that looks like a bridge. Lighting is another opportunity to soften bridge. There are options that are not cobra-head lights. If piercing couldn't go all the way through the span of the bridge, then first 25-50 feet, where people dropping things through the piercings won't have the same safety concerns and do the piercings there.

Ramirez: Please let me know your concerns. Will need to make the case that this is a stand-alone case, all of these standards have been negotiated throughout the project.

Halajian: This site is very critical. Is there a sidewalk along Weber?

Zach: As rendered on this no sidewalk.

Halajian: Pedestrian experience is important, how can we soften the design. Boyd: There is no room here for landscaping.

Hatwig: In the middle have something that signifies it's a bridge. Peaked arch along the fencing of bridge.

Zach: What is HSR's timeline? The HPC meets monthly. [to Committee] Do we have a subcommittee?

Hatwig: Yes.

Zach: Between meetings let us coordinate so that we need not wait for next meeting.

Hatwig: Yes.

Ramirez: The design elements heard so far, the look of the fencing, MSE wall, including a marker at the beginning and the end, are not structural.

Halajian: If these standards have been negotiated already, what would compel contractor to listen to our recommendations?

Ramirez: Since this element is replacing historic structure, the City of Fresno and HPC need to agree with built environment treatment plan; that is what is what is compelling the [HSR] Authority to come up with new design. FRA and SHPO will need to agree, as well. Everyone must agree to finalize design.

Goldbeck: should subcommittee reach out to SHPO about what SHPO wants?

Boyd: Yes.

Ramirez: I can set up a meeting with everyone, either a teleconference or in person. That would be efficient.

Zach: I can coordinate.

Boyd: To help speed things up, subcommittee is available to sit in on meetings in between.

Zach: Who is on subcommittee?

Boyd: Halajian and Boyd.

Zach: [to Ramirez] When do you need design for bridge by? Is there a date certain?

Ramirez: The last schedule I saw, and this was several months ago so it may be out of date, said the demolition work on the existing structure was scheduled for late 2017.

Boyd: What level of plans?

Ramirez: Structure plans close to being finalized. Embellishments won't affect structural.

Boyd: Civil done, too?

Ramirez: Unsure.

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Halajian: Can we add bike lanes or sidewalks?

Ramirez: Public Works would be the one to talk to.

Zach: Are dimensioned cross sections available?

Ramirez: I will find out.

Chairman Boyd opened public comment

George Hostetter: Question, the Commission is concerned about how structure fits in with community, yet without a better rendering how can you express your concerns? Would suggest that HPC ask HSR for better renderings, including street names. Thank you.

McNary: I agree we need details. The subcommittee will work with HSR Authority to come up with something to approve or deny.

Boyd: Renderings that lack detail make it hard to evaluate impact of the bridge. Roper: This doesn't give us an idea, so we will work with HSR to get a better idea.

Public comment closed.

b) ID17-775 Update on Roeding Park Work.

Dan Zach updated the commission on Roeding Park work. In conjunction with the zoo, a parking lot expansion is occurring. Main impact: a picnic bench is being moved, no landscaped park space will be lost (it was a former maintenance yard), circulation will change a little. 5 to 10 trees being removed and replaced at a 5:1 ratio or greater. Playland: replica teacups will be put in, French replicas. Playland entryway is being redone in accordance with Master Plan, 1980s canopies will be removed (not original). New trees and new walkway paving will be put in at entrance. 1 tree will be removed, 15 will replace it. Reclaimed water work is occurring. Reclaimed water pipe (purple pipe) will go in. The parking lot will go in first, will use potable until then. In Master Plan Golden State Blvd was going to have a pond, but HSR will impact that, so it is not happening. Also, on Belmont, across from zoo an overflow parking lot is proposed. Any more details, can bring in expert or send written update if you prefer.

Boyd: Irrigation is in such disrepair controllers won't fix it. Majority of vegetation is not drought tolerant, but original to design. Concerned that the irrigation problems would cause tree loss.

Zach: Would the committee like more information on this?

Boyd: Written update will be fine.

Zach: Will follow up.

Simmons: I am concerned about losing picnic bench. Where is statue next to caretaker's cottage? Are we losing a pond?

Zach: I am unsure if that pond is being relocated or lost entirely.

Simmons: Could we get info from PARCS. How are picnic shelters being impacted?

Boyd: The administration building was listed, was supposed to be moved. What are the plans for that?

No public comment

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

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None

VIII. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Members of the Commission

None

B. Staff

Mills Act- Dan Zach updated HPC on the Mills Act.

Zach: There are a few people on a waiting list. Will bring draft form to HPC in June.

Halajian: Is the Mills Act program only for private citizen or can an organization participate?

Zach: Anyone who owns a historic building and pays taxes on it can apply and if the Council approves them then they are approved. The goal is to have this information on the website, as well as brochures to all the public counters.

Halajian: If people are interested in applying in interim?

Zach: Direct them to me. I will bundle the applications this fall. HPC will see them in October, to make it to City Council by the end of the year.

City Council March 9th Update- Old Armenian Town has not moved forward, no update.

Simmons: who is holding this up?

Zach: it is not ready to move forward, I will let you know.

Seth: City Attorney's Office has no information.

Zach: I've told you all I can.

573 E. Terrace Avenue and 2721 Ventura Street- both were added to the Local Register.

215 N Clark- City Council didn't approve this nomination. Simmons: What was the vote on 215 Clark?

Zach: Unsure, unanimous, possibly.

Historic Preservation staff position update-

Zach: Two external applicants that met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards are being screened by HR.

Goldbeck: Timing?

Zach: Early June, maybe by July.

Halajian: Background?

Zach: Masters of History. They are local to the Fresno area. When we move forward, I would to have a few members of the HPC to be on interview panel.

Boyd: Can Ron have a name plate?

Zach: yes.

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Historic Preservation and Code Enforcement.

Hatwig: Old Trolley update and Craycroft update?

Zach: Code enforcement hasn't contacted me. I will provide update.

Simmons: Old Producer's Dairy, too, please.

Boyd: Get a list from Code Enforcement on all projects that are on listed properties, please.

Simmons: House on Glen, check minimum maintenance on this property, too.

Zach: updates on all these next month.

C. General Public

There was no additional Public comment.

IX. NEXT MEETING: June 26, 2017, 6 PM Conference Room A, City Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Boyd adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Dan Zack, Assistant Director

Amber Piona, Acting Recording

Secretary